



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9193

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EVENT: Summit

Defendant:

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY STEPHEN J. MURPHY TO CO-HOST
MICHIGAN'S FIRST ANTI-GANG SUMMIT**

Detroit - United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy is proud to announce that he will be co-hosting the first Michigan Anti-Gang Summit to be held in Lansing on November 2, 2006. The conference is jointly sponsored by the United States Attorney's Offices for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan. The conference is part of the Eastern District of Michigan's ongoing Anti-Gang Initiative which has been aimed at combating the increasing problem of gang violence in the district's communities.

"Gangs destroy communities and ruin neighborhoods. To fight back, we must not only deploy the full power of law enforcement, we must address the wide range of personal, family and community factors that are the root causes of gang activity. This initiative will therefore include mentor-based reentry assistance programs for prisoners who are released back into society after having served time. Through this multi-pronged attack, we will begin to dismantle and eradicate gangs in our state. I am very appreciative of the cooperation of so many in our state who are serious about addressing this significant problem", said U.S. Attorney Murphy.

Earlier this year, the Justice Department announced it was dedicating \$30 million in grant funding the support new and expanded anti-gang prevention and enforcement efforts under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative. PSN brings together federal, state and local law enforcement and communities in a unified effort to reduce gun crime across America. These new funds will allow local PSN task forces to combat gangs by building on the effective strategies and partnerships developed under PSN.

Participants at the conference will include anti-gang experts with both law enforcement and prevention perspectives. Dr. Carl S. Taylor, a professor of Sociology at Michigan State University will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Taylor has extensive research experience focused on the reduction of violence involving American youth. He is an author of numerous publications on gangs and violence.

The purpose of the conference is to gather intelligence and identify best practices in order to effectively address gang issues. The focus of the conference will be on how to establish a collaborative multi-disciplinary response to address the states gang problems. The target audience will include educators as well as law enforcement personnel.

For more information about the conference, please contact Robert Poikey, United States Attorney's Office at 313-226-9120.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan prosecutes civil and criminal matters on behalf of the United States of America and its agencies in the 34 counties that make up the eastern half of the state. The Office serves a population of more than 6.7 million Michigan residents and is comprised of approximately 100 Assistant United States Attorneys and a similar number of support staff.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy was appointed by President Bush to his position on March 8, 2005 and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate three months later.